

Applicant: Cong Thanh DINH
Application Serial No.: 10/764,105
Filing Date: January 23, 2004
Docket No.: 577-614
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REMARKS

The application has been amended. The specification and drawings have been amended. Claims 1-5 have been canceled and claims 6, 7 and 8 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). The Examiner has also objected to the disclosure noting certain informalities. The specification and drawings have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns. Most notably, the specification has been amended to correct inconsistencies in reference numerals. Also, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, the first and second opposite ends have been provided with a reference numeral. Moreover, as certain of the drawing and claim amendments relate to claim 1, these objections have been obviated by the cancellation of claims 1-5.

Proposed drawing amendments are submitted herewith. Subject to the approval of the Examiner and upon an indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant will prepare formal drawings incorporating the changes. It is believed that the drawing objections as well as the specification objections are hereby obviated. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Claims 6 and 7 are objected to based on certain informalities. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to address the informalities noted by the Examiner. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-5 have been canceled and claims 6 and 7 have been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,927,039 to McNab. This determination is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-5 have been canceled.

Independent claim 6 recites a reversible bracket for attachment to an open front face of an outlet box. The bracket includes a planar flange having opposed surfaces. The bracket is installed in either a first position, where one of the opposed surfaces is attachable to the open front face of the box or in a second position with the other opposed surface attachable to the open front face of the box.

The McNab reference shows an outlet box including a receptacle attachment 12. The receptacle attachment has opposed ends which define an interior for receipt of a termination device. In the McNab reference, the ends of the receptacle attachment 12 are

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attached to the front face of the outlet box. The flange 14 is at all times spaced from the front end of the outlet box. Accordingly, as it relates to claim 6, McNab fails to disclose a bracket having a planar flange with opposed surfaces where the opposed surfaces are mountable to the front face of the outlet box.

Failing to show the arrangement set forth in claim 6, McNab cannot be anticipatory thereof. Accordingly, claim 6 and claim 7 which depends therefrom are believed to be patentably distinct over McNab.

Turning now to claim 8, a bracket for attachment to an electrical outlet box is recited. The bracket includes a generally planar flange which spans the open face of the box. Again it is noted that McNab attaches its receptacle attachment 12 to the box by placing one of the ends on the face of the outlet box. As it relates to claim 8 of the present invention, McNab fails to show a generally planar flange positionable on the upper edge of the side wall of the box spanning the open face of the box. As such, McNab cannot be anticipatory of claim 8. Therefore claim 8 and claims 9-10 which depend therefrom are patentably distinct over McNab.

Referring now to method claim 11, a method of attaching an electrical outlet box to a stud is recited. The method steps of claim 11 include providing a bracket having a planar flange and defining a bounded opening extending in a first direction and a second

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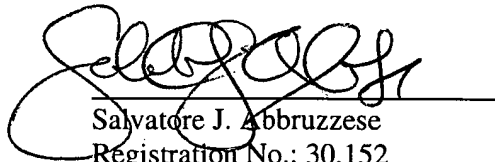
direction from the flange. The bracket is attached to the outlet box such that one of the first or second extending walls extends into the interior of the box.

As shown in the McNab reference, especially in Figures 3 and 4, it is quite clear that the bounded wall of the attachment member 12 does not, in either position, extend into interior of the outlet box. Failing to disclose an element of claim 11, McNab cannot anticipate claim 11. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 11 and claim 12 which depends therefrom is patentably distinct over McNab.

In summary, claims 1-5 have been canceled and claims 6-12 define patentably over McNab. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the application including claims 6-12 is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning this application or this amendment, he or she is invited to contact the undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendment to the Drawings:

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, please enter the following drawing amendments shown in red in the attached sketch.

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 3 and Figure 4. These sheets, which includes Figures 3 and 4 replaces the original sheets including Figures 3 and 4. In Figure 3, previously omitted element 34a has been added. In Figure 4, previously omitted element 36a has been added.

Attachment: Replacement sheets 2/5 and 3/5.
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes.

Title: ELECTRICAL TERMINATION COMPONENT BRACKET

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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

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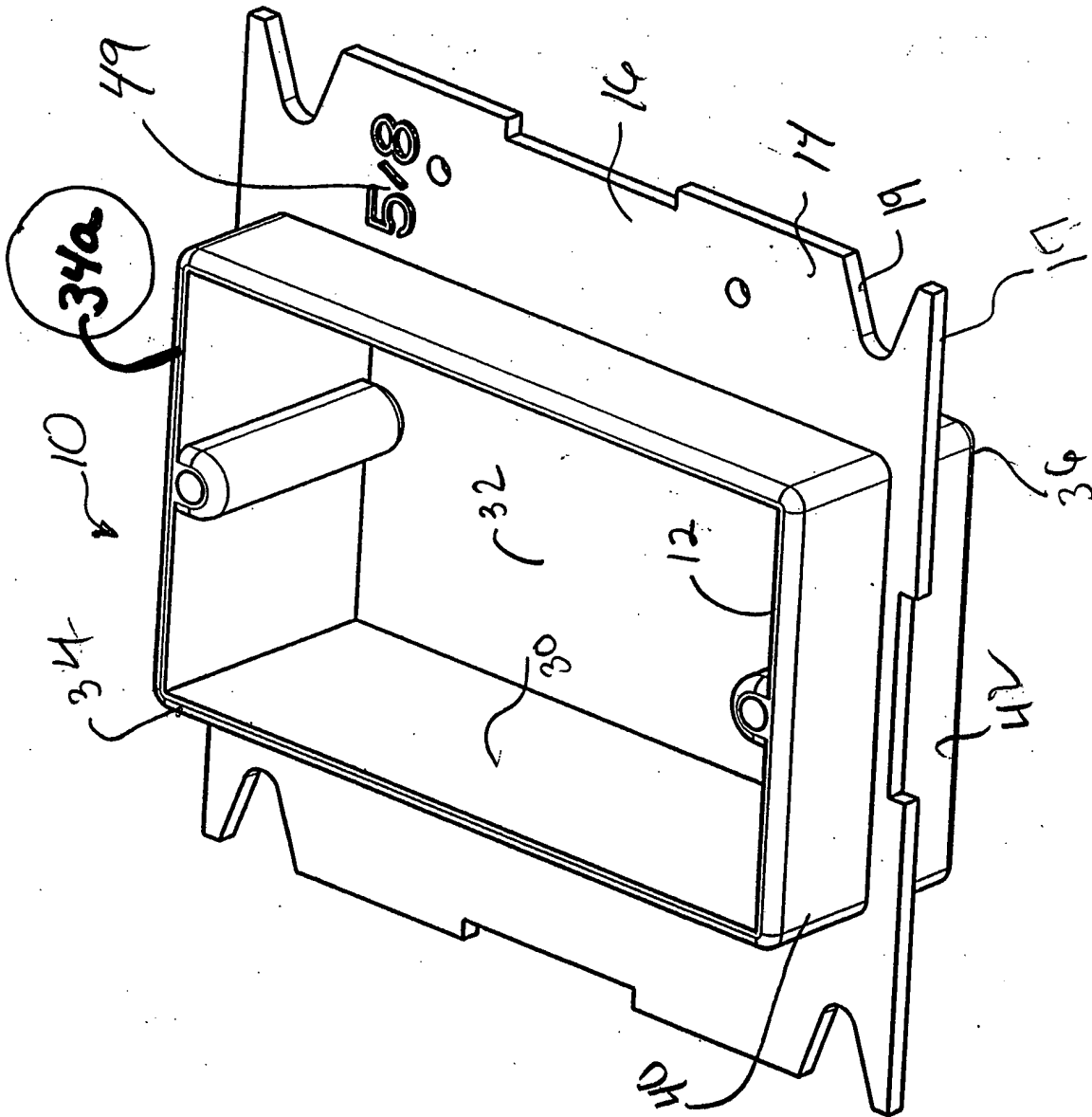


Fig. 3.

Element 34a added

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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

3/5

Element 36a added

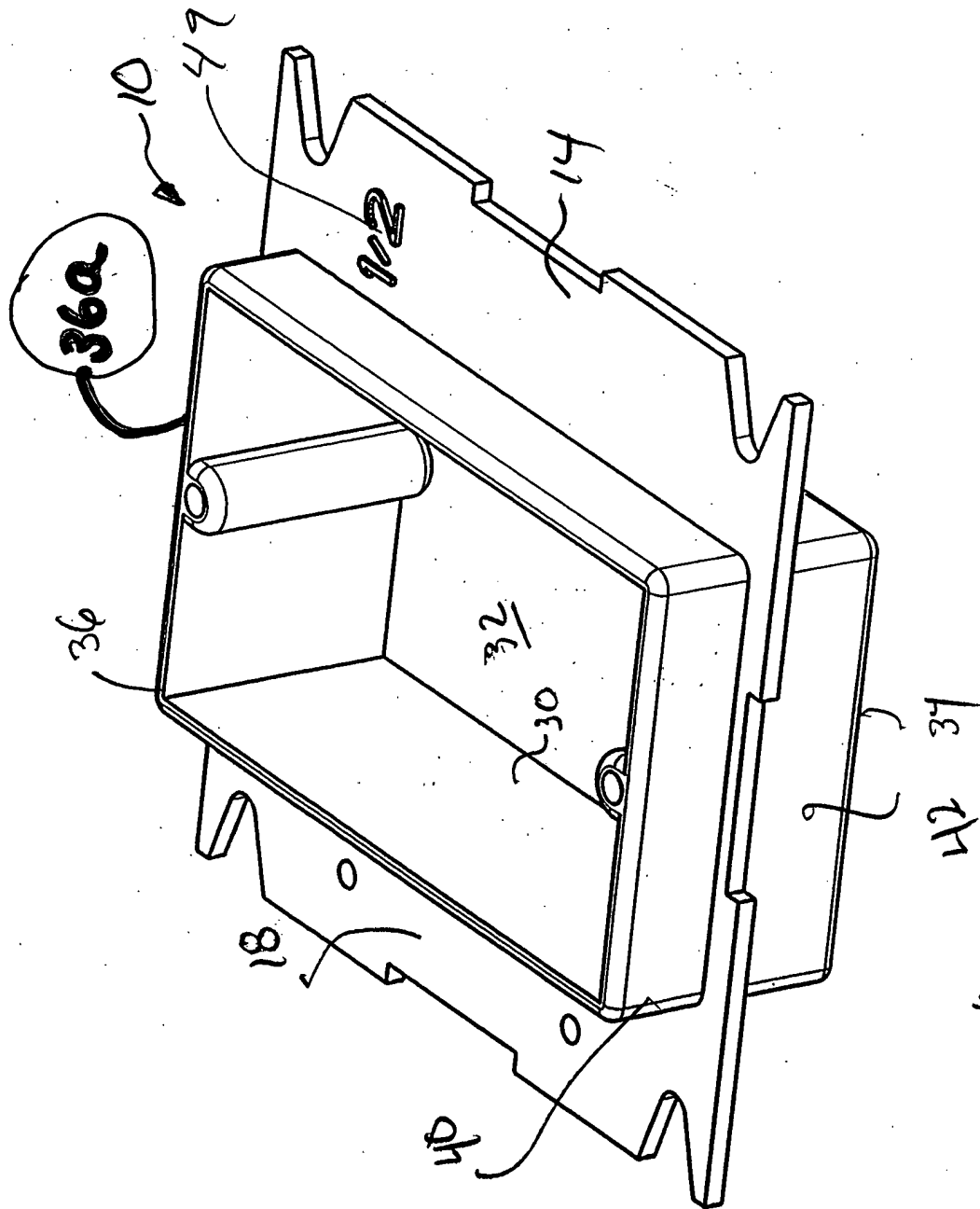


FIG. 4